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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,124	11/14/2003	Masahiko Yamamoto	600791-9US (ZUS-032TAE)	9581
570	7590	09/07/2006		EXAMINER
AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD L.L.P. ONE COMMERCE SQUARE 2005 MARKET STREET, SUITE 2200 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			MCGRaw, TREVOR EDWIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				3752

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/713,124	YAMAMOTO ET AL.
	Examiner Trevor McGraw	Art Unit 3752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 and 13-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 11,12 and 17-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/14/2003.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: "31". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear to the Examiner if Applicant has positively claimed "the holding wall or a portion of the holding wall" in lines 2-3 of claim 3.

Examiner is also unclear when Applicant uses the limitation "engagement protrusion" in line 4 of claim 3 as the "locking protrusion" is used in the specification.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "sealing member side" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Examiner suggests making proper reference to the limitation "sealing member side" to ensure proper claim antecedence.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mullin (US 3,336,936).

In regard to claims 1 and 4, Mullins teaches a service valve nozzle with a tapered distal end having a nozzle cap (50) engaged with the distal end of the service valve nozzle where the nozzle cap (50) has a cylindrical shape cover that surrounds the sealing member and has a terminal wall (Figure 1) opposed to the distal end face of the nozzle and is axial to the nozzle where a sealing member (52) is placed on the terminal wall (Figure 1) and adheres closely to the distal end of the nozzle sealing the nozzle opening (Figure 1) where a holding wall of the cap (50) presses and holds an edge of the sealing member (52) and cooperates with the terminal wall (Figure 1) where the holding wall is disposed such that the distal end face of the nozzle abuts against the holding wall. Mullins also teaches a holding wall that has a protruding wall (Figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullins in view of Fluck et al. (US 2004/0036232).

In regard to Claims 1-10 and 13-16, Mullins as taught above fails to teach a nozzle cap having a holding wall that has a protrusion wall protruding from a terminal wall and bent to a sealing member where the protruding wall has an engagement protrusion biting into the sealing member. However, Fluck et al. (US 2004/0036232) teaches a sealing system with a sealing member (27) that is disposed within a holding wall (22) has a protruding wall (23) from the terminal wall (16) and is bent to the sealing member (27) where the terminal wall terminal wall is provided with an engagement protrusion (25) into the sealing member (27). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in that art at the time of the present invention to change the seal and wall arrangement of Mullins with the sealing and wall arrangement of Fluck et al. to provide for a firm sealing engagement with the tapered face of Mullins to prevent any leakage or foreign debris from entering the service valve nozzle for when the nozzle is not in use and to provide for a seal that will not adhere to the body of the nozzle cap.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-12 and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but appear to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

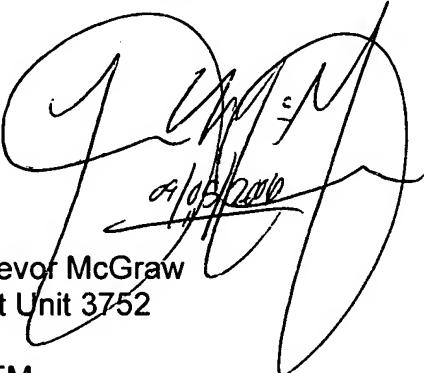
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Myers et al. (US 5,653,256), Johnson Jr. (US 6,290,238).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trevor McGraw whose telephone number is (571) 272-7375. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (2nd & 4th Friday Off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Scherbel can be reached on (571) 272-4919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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TEM



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